

Amendment To The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for collecting multimedia program information from a plurality of transport streams, comprising:

receiving a plurality of transport streams, each of which contains program information regarding multimedia programs carried in the transport stream,

receiving requests for collecting program information, said requests identifying program information to be collected from one or more of the transport streams,

obtaining program information packets from the plurality of transport streams as they are received, the obtained program information packets containing first received program information and second received program information; and

matching the ~~the~~ [[a]] first received program information with a first list of requested program information; and

matching the ~~the~~ [[a]] second received program information with a second list of requested program information.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the transport streams is an MPEG transport stream.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the requested program information is comprised of multiple fields.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said fields include at least one Program Identification (PID) Code.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of matching the first received program information and matching the second received program information ~~said processing of the program information~~ is done asynchronously with respect to said receiving step.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of notifying an application requesting the program information once a match is located for the first received program information and the second received program information.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the application requesting the program information periodically queries the status of the request.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the program information carried in the transport streams is received out of the sequence specified in the request.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said processing includes dividing the requested information into multiple lists and searching each list as program information is received from the transport streams.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein a linear search algorithm is used to conduct the search.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein a binary search algorithm is used to conduct the search.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein plurality of requests is received simultaneously from different applications.

14. (Currently amended) Apparatus for collecting multimedia program information from a plurality of transport streams, comprising:

an input module for receiving a plurality of transport streams, each of which contains at least one of video, audio, and program information regarding multimedia programs carried in the transport stream,

an input processor for separating program information packets from the plurality of transport streams as they are received, the separated program information packets containing first received program information and second received program information; and

a central processing unit for: (i) receiving requests for specific program information separated by said input processor, (ii) matching the [[a]] first received program information with a first list of requested program information; and (iii) matching the [[a]] second received program information with a second list of requested program information.

15. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 14 wherein at least one of the transport streams is an MPEG transport stream.

16. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 14 wherein the requested program information is comprised of multiple fields.

17. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein, said fields include at least one Program Identification (PID) Code.

18. (Currently amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 14 wherein matching the first received program information and matching the second received program information ~~said processing of the program information~~ is done asynchronously with respect to receiving requests for collecting program information.

19. (Currently amended) Apparatus, in accordance with claim 14 further capable of notifying an application requesting the program information once a match is located for the first received program information and the second received program information.

20. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 19 wherein the application requesting the program information periodically queries the status of the request.

21. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 14 wherein the program information carried in the transport streams is received out of the sequence specified in the request.

22. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 14 wherein said processing includes dividing the requested information into multiple lists and searching each list as program information is received from the transport streams.

23. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein a linear search algorithm is used to conduct the search.

24. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein a binary search algorithm is used to conduct the search.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) Apparatus in accordance with claim 14 wherein a plurality of requests is received simultaneously from different applications.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first received program information includes a Program Identification (PID) Code and the second received program information includes one of Table ID, Table ID Extension, Version Number or Section Number.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the first received program information includes a Program Identification (PID) Code and the second received program information includes one of Table ID, Table ID Extension, Version Number or Section Number.